

Message Text

SECRET

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65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 041725Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5091

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 0283

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XJ AO MR

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: SOVIETS JUMP IN WITH BOTH FEET

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 205

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR STARTSEV, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW, TOLD MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS, LATE LAST WEEK (JANUARY 29 OR 30) THAT GIRM HAD BETTER RECOGNIZE LUANDA-BASED GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE".

2. MOUKNASS GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET DEMARCHE TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUTIER DAY OR TWO

SECRET

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LATER:

STARTSEV OPENED WITH OBSERVATION THAT GIRM WHICH USED TO BE MEMBER IN VERY GOOD STANDING OF PROGRESSIVE, POPULAR, SOCIALIST WORLD HAD BACK-SLID TERRIBLY OF LATE AND WAS BECOMING INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM WESTERN IMPERIALISTS. BACK-SLIDING WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN GIRM'S FAILURE TO CARRY ITS PREVIOUS ACTIVE SUPPORT OF MPLA THROUGH TO FORMAL RECOGNITION OF "GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA". STARTSEV CONCLUDED THAT GIRM HAD BETTER CLIMB ON BANDWAGON PROMPTLY AND RECOGNIZE LUANDA GOVERNMENT "BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE". MOUKNASS TOLD GAUTIER HE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY IRRITATED BY IMPLIED THREAT IN STARTSEV'S FINAL COMMENT. HE FIRMLY REJECTED SOVIET ADVICE, AND BLUNTLY TOLD STARTSEV THAT SOVIETS AND CUBANS WERE PRIMARY CAUSE OF PRESENT MESS IN ANGOLA. MOUKNASS THEN SUGGESTED TO STARTSEV THAT SOVIETS SHOULD TERMINATE THEIR INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA FORTHWITH AND GET OUT SO THAT AFRICANS COULD GET ON WITH DEVISING AFRICAN SOLUTION TO URGENT AND CRITICAL AFRICAN PROBLEM.HANDYSIDE

SECRET

NNN

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